

# **History of the Georgia Tech Library with Emphasis on the Crosland Era**

**A PRESENTATION AT THE  
ASEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JUNE 2017**

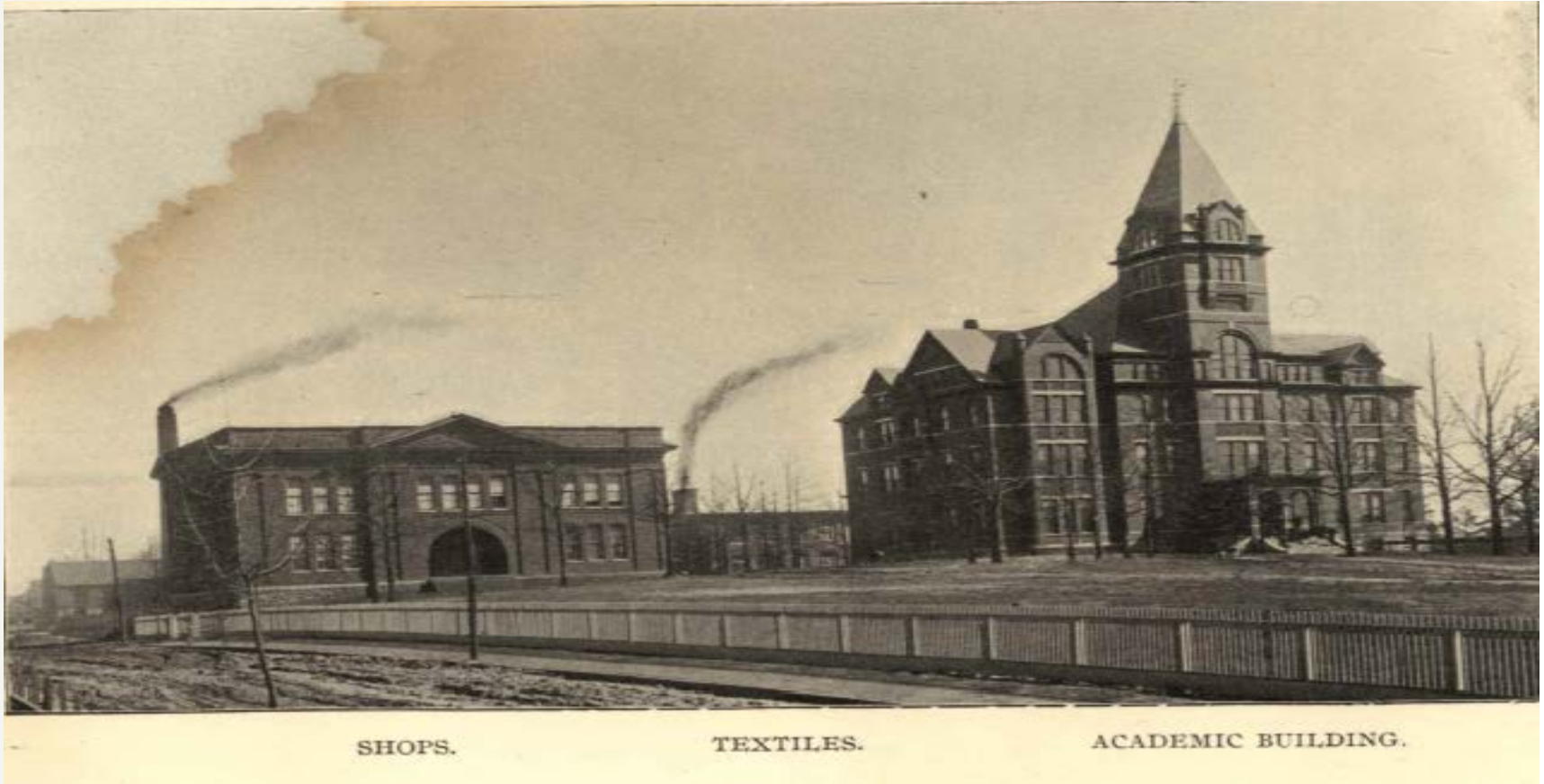
**Isabel M Altamirano, Lisha Li, Bette M Finn  
Georgia Tech Library  
Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

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# Outline

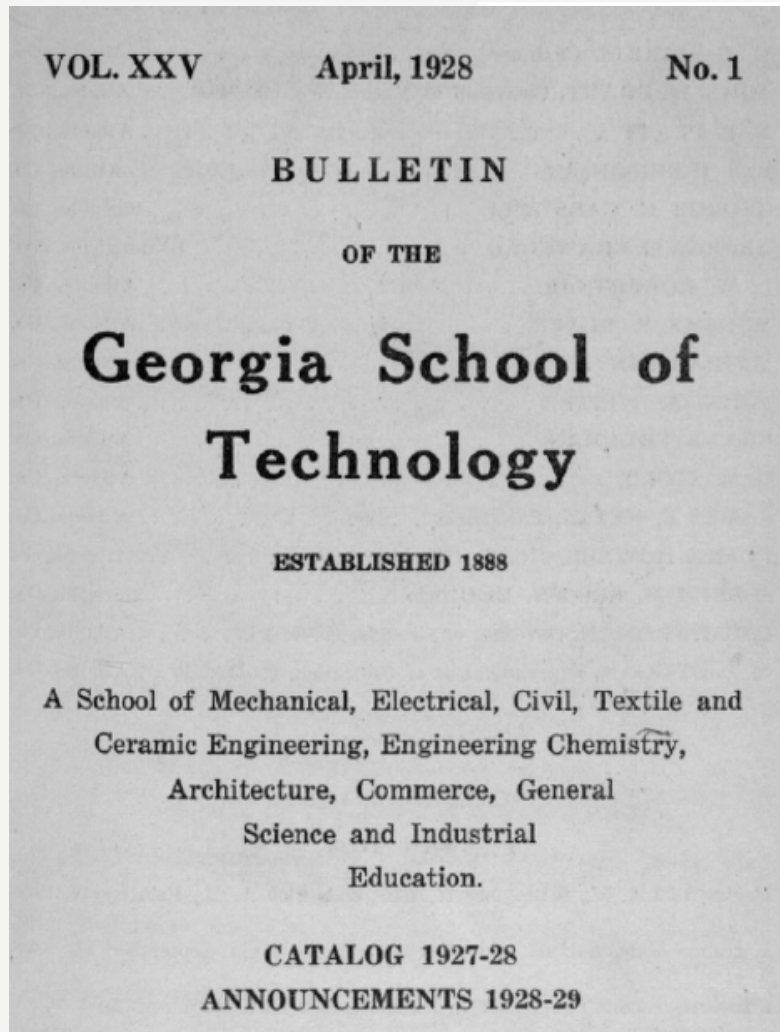
- Background
- Crosland and Library Buildings
- Crosland and the Library's Collections in Science and Technology
- Crosland and Information Science

# Georgia Tech - Early Campus View



*The Georgia Tech, June 1899, Commencement Issue, p.5.*

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives <https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/14771>



# Engineering Emphasis From the Start

**Bulletin of the  
Georgia School of Technology,  
April 1928**

**Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Textile  
and Ceramic Engineering,  
Engineering Chemistry,  
Architecture, Commerce, General  
Science and Industrial Education**

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives:  
<https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/48201>



# Background

**Dorothy Murray  
Crosland  
(Mrs. J. Henley Crosland)  
1903 – 1983**

Crosland worked at the  
**Georgia Tech Library:**

- **Assistant Librarian**  
1925-1927
- **Librarian (Head)** 1927-  
1953
- **Director** 1953-1971



Crosland in her office at Price Gilbert Memorial Library in 1950s. Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives:  
<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/13100>

# Current Configuration: Two Library Buildings and Commons



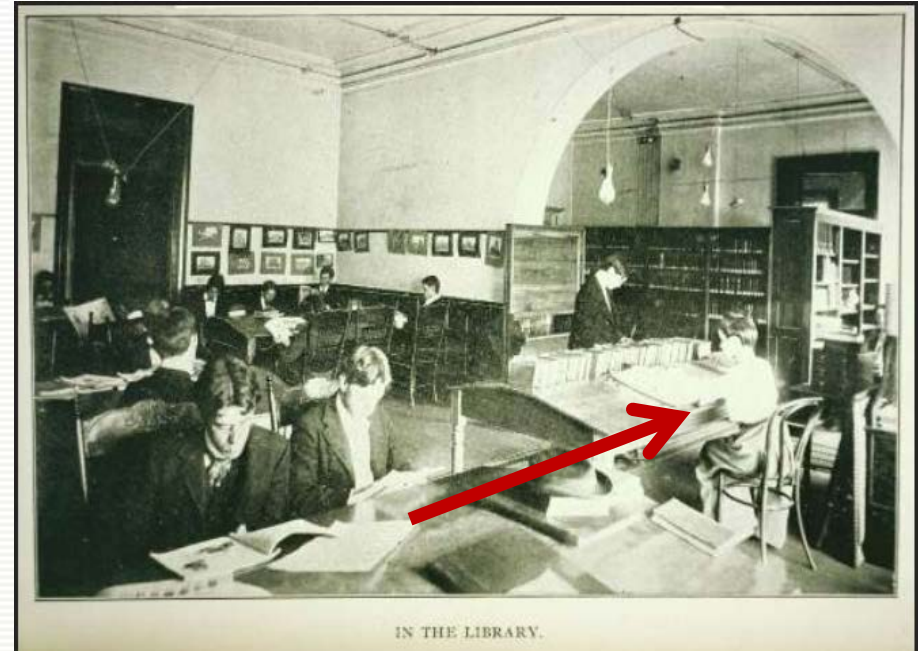
- **Crosland Tower  
(Graduate Library,  
1969)**
- **Price Gilbert  
Memorial Library  
(1953)**
- **Clough  
Undergraduate  
Learning Commons  
(2011)**

# Early Library - Academic Building

- **1<sup>st</sup> Library space** – **bookcase** in the office of the Head of the English Department, in the Academic Building
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Library space** – **part of the third floor** in the Academic Building. Approved by the third Georgia Tech, President Matheson in 1899
- **First Librarian – Madge Flynn.** Hired in 1901 with Faculty Status

Source: Georgia Tech Library Archives:

<http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS064-ead/MS064-ead.xml;query=flynn;brand=default>



Library, housed in the Academic Building, circa 1900. Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives:  
<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/5807>



# Carnegie Library



**The Carnegie Building (circa 1910)**

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archive:

<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/3901>

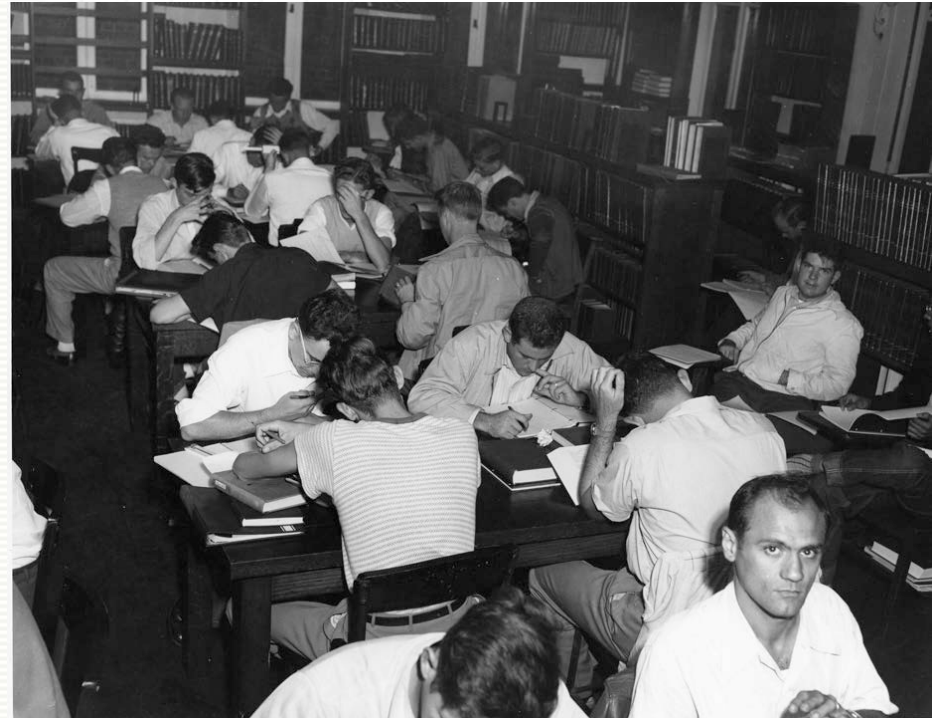
Source: Georgia Tech Library Archives:  
<http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS064-ead/MS064-ead.xml;query=flynn;brand=default>

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Library: The Carnegie Building** served as the university library from 1907-1953. During this time, the building was known as the Carnegie Library
- **Andrew Carnegie** pledged \$20,000 for a library building on the campus
- **Second Librarian: Laura Hammond** (1905 – 1924). She organized a Book Shower in 1907
- **Third Librarian: Francis Newman** (1925)



# Crosland and the Carnegie Library

- **Fourth Librarian. Dorothy Murray** became Librarian in 1927
- In August 1928, Dorothy married James Crosland and was known professionally as **Dorothy Crosland** or **Mrs. J. Henley Crosland**
- Pre-WWII, the library was fully occupied
- Knowles Dormitory held overflow materials



**Students study inside the Carnegie Library.  
Circa 1940s**

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archives:

<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/3903>

Source: <http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/VAM001-ead/VAM001-ead.xml;query=;brand=default>

# Price Gilbert Memorial Library



- Dorothy Crosland started **campaigning** for a new library in the late **1930s**
- Price Gilbert Memorial Library was **dedicated** in November **1953** and quickly became the hub of the university



**Georgia Tech Library (Gilbert Building)**

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives:

<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/1027>

# Price Gilbert Memorial Library



- Built on **highest point** on campus
- Excellent example of early modern style of Architecture
- Beautiful and AIR CONDITIONED!!!



**Price Gilbert Memorial Library. Exterior of building (facing Fourth Street). Circa 1953.** Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives: <http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/1171>



# Usage Climbs!

With the addition of **more graduate programs and students** in all majors, Price Gilbert Memorial Library became **overcrowded** a decade after its opening



**Gilbert Memorial Library. 1st floor reading room** with people studying at desks. **Circa 1950s.**

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives:

<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/1659>



# Graduate Addition

- The much needed Graduate Addition was dedicated in October **1969**
- It was later renamed **Crosland Towers** in Dorothy Crosland's honor in **1985**



Source:

<http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS001-ead/MS001-ead.xml;query=crosland;brand=default>

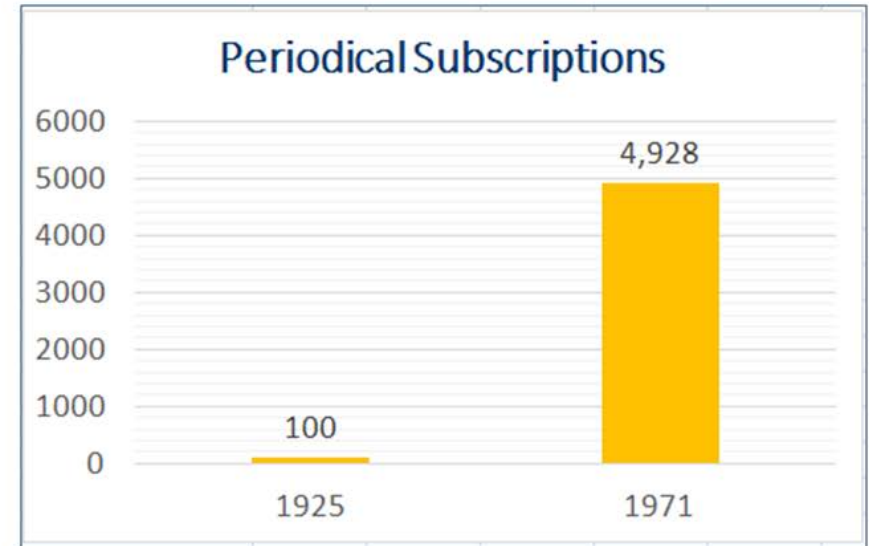
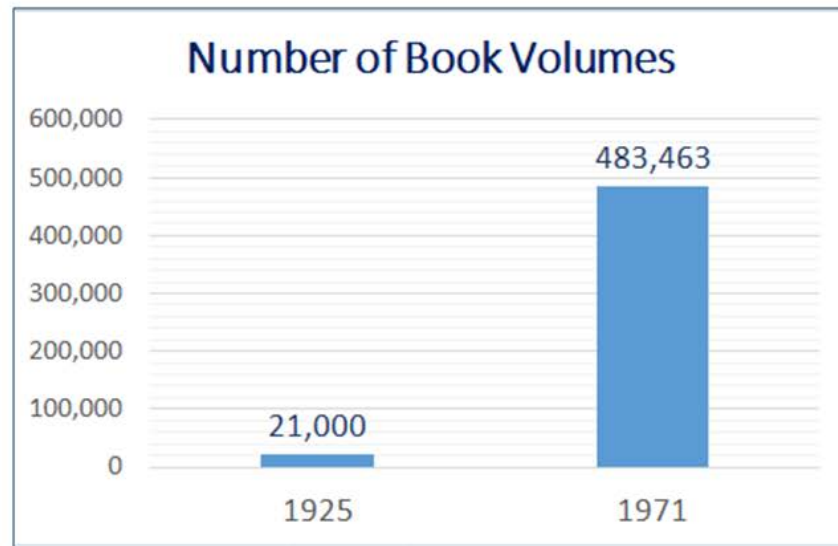
Gilbert Memorial Library graduate addition, 1967.

Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Library Archives:

Source: Georgia Tech Library Archives:

<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/1668>

# Collection Growth



## Growth of library collection under Crosland 1925-1971

Source : 1971 Annual Report, Georgia Tech Library

# European Book Buying Trip - 1947



Crosland went on book buying trips to **eight European countries** to purchase valuable and rare scientific and technical books and journals

“Mrs. Crosland was the **first civilian librarian** to visit Europe since the conclusion of the war.”

“Mrs. Crosland’s purchases will place Tech’s library among the top engineering libraries in the country”

Source: “**Tech Librarian Returns From Trip**” *The Georgia Tech Alumnus*. March - April, vol. XXV, no. 4, 1947, p. 7.  
<https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/50944>

## Tech Librarian Returns From Trip

Mrs. J. H. Crosland, Tech librarian, has just returned from a bookbuying trip to Europe in which she visited eight countries and traveled 13,000 miles during the ten weeks that she was gone. Her object in making the journey was to purchase scientific and technical journals for the Carnegie Library at Tech.

Mrs. Crosland was the first civilian librarian to visit Europe since the conclusion of the war. Although she speaks no foreign languages, her first trip to Europe found her using the services of an interpreter only in France.

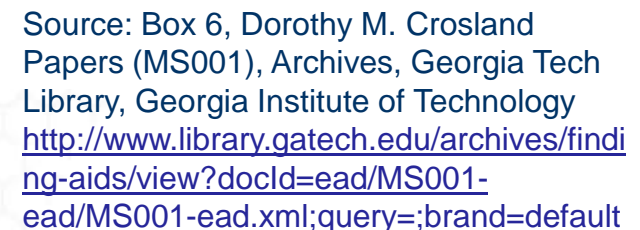
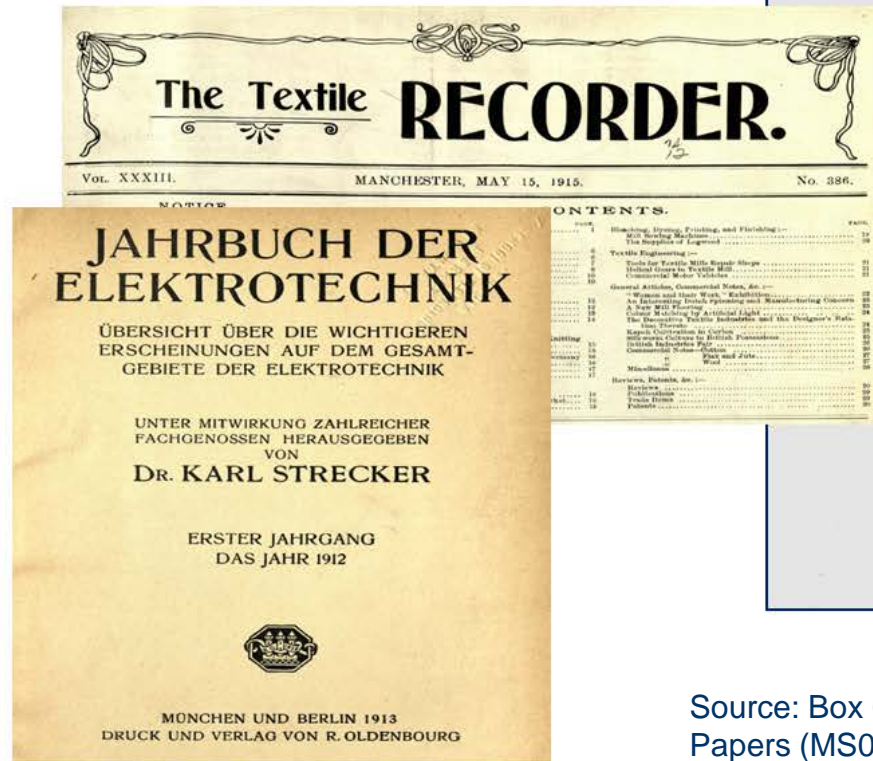
A total of 37 libraries was visited, including some of the greatest engineering libraries of the world. Some of these were the Patent Office Library and the Royal Aeronautical Society in London; Technische Hochschule in Zurich; Kungl Tekniska Hogskolas Bibliotek in Stockholm; and the University of Paris at Sorbonne.

Mrs. Crosland's purchases will place Tech's library among the top engineering libraries in the country. Her acquisition of several volumes of Vliegfeld (Flying) from a bookseller in The Hague gives Tech the only complete set in the United States. In a bookstore in Stockholm she found several volumes of The Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry which will leave Tech only four volumes short of a complete set.

A few of the books have already arrived, but delivery on the others is expected to be slow because of lack of shipping boxes. Those which have already been received are small sets which were sent by registered mail. It will probably be six months or a year before all of the books have arrived.



**Georgia Tech**





# Patents, Technical Reports, Depositories



- Patent Depository Library (PDL), 1946
- Atomic Energy Commission technical reports, 1950
- NASA technical reports, 1950s
- Regional Technical Report Center, 1962
- Government Document Repository, 1962

January 29, 1946

Mr. Casper W. Ooms, Commissioner  
The Patent Office  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ooms,

Can you tell me if there is a patent collection in the South? More and more this library is called upon for patents. Just last week, a man flew to Atlanta from Jacksonville, Florida expecting to find a patent collection at Georgia Tech. Because we are an engineering institution and because we do have an Engineering Experiment Station doing much research, we seem to be expected to have all patents.

I realize the expense of maintaining a patent collection after its initial cost. If there is not a collection in the South, then surely some institution or library should assume the responsibility and begin the. If Georgia Tech should plan to care for and give information about patents, I do not think we would go back further than 1926. Would it be possible for you to give me an idea what the cost would be from 1926 to date? What is the approximate annual cost.

I shall appreciate any information that you may give me about the establishment and maintenance of a patent collection.

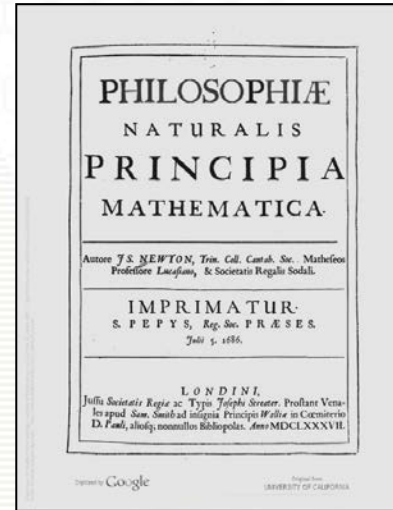
Sincerely yours,

Mrs. J.H. Crosland  
Librarian

Source: Dorothy M. Crosland Papers (MS001), Archives, Georgia Tech Library, Georgia Institute of Technology

# Rare Books - Principia

- Crosland acquired rare and valuable scientific and technical books such as her acquisition in **1958** of a copy of the **first edition** of Sir Isaac Newton's *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (London, 1687)
- The *Principia* is the cornerstone for any outstanding history of science and technology collection



Source: **Philosophiæ naturalis principia mathematica**. Autore Is. Newton. (original from University of California, HathiTrust: page <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31822005223383?urlappend=%3Bseq=7> book url: <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31822005223383>



Source: **2<sup>nd</sup> edition** acquired by Georgia Tech Library 1999; **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** donated 1984 <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31822005223383?urlappend=%3Bseq=7> Courtesy of Jody Thompson, photographs and Mandi Johnson and Christine de Catanzaro, presentation slides, 2011

Source: Rare Books, Archives & Records Management, Georgia Tech Library  
[http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/rare\\_books.php](http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/rare_books.php)

# Rare Books

## Blaeu's Grooten Atlas

- Crosland acquired in 1965 the nine-volume Dutch edition of **Joan Blaeu's *Grooten Atlas*** published in the 1660s
- The Grooten Atlas features hundreds of beautiful hand-colored maps and detailed text



Source: Rare Books, Archives & Records Management,  
Georgia Tech Library

[http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/rare\\_books.php](http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/rare_books.php)

**Crosland looking at the *Blaeu Atlas*.**  
Courtesy of Georgia Tech Library  
Archives, circa 1950s.  
<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/4224>



# Blaeu's Grooten Atlas

## Africa

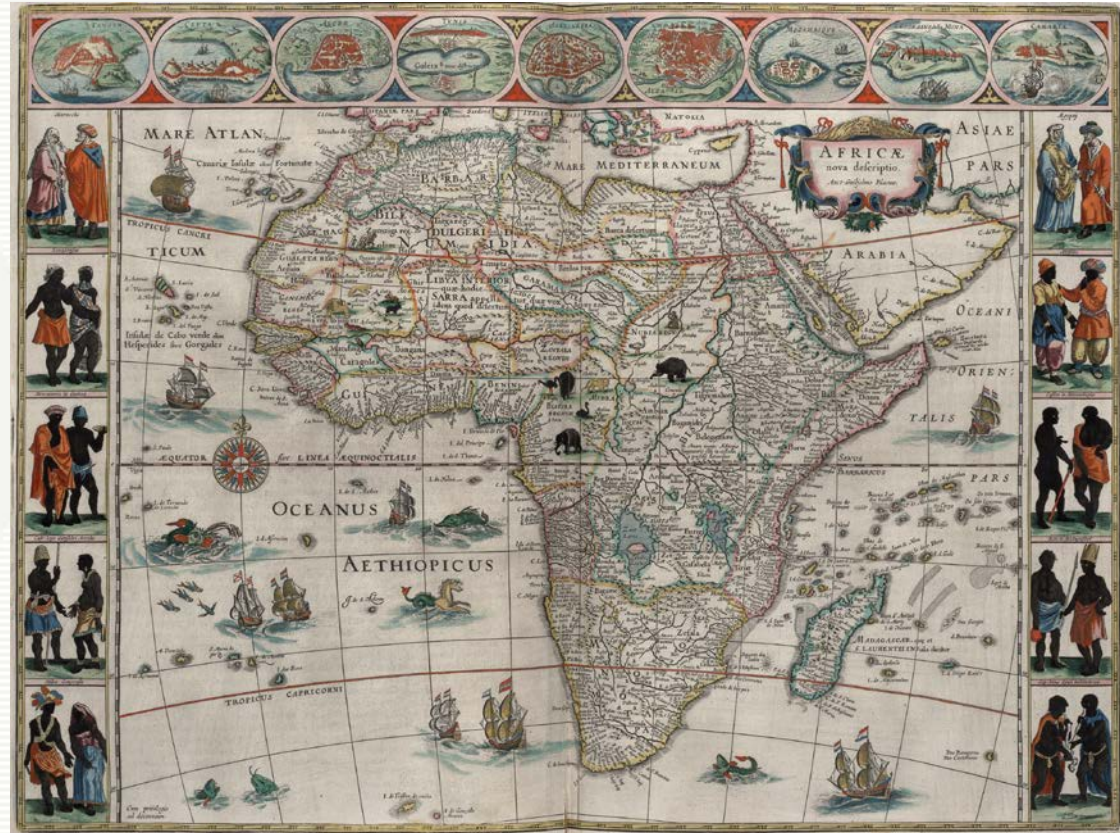


Photo courtesy of Katie Gentilello  
Georgia Tech Library Archives



# Examples of Gifts



**Neely collection of medals** donated by Frank H. Neely, business and civic leader in Atlanta, graduated from Georgia Tech in 1904.

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archives:

<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/5140>

<http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?query=medal&docId=ead%2FMS088-ead%2FMS088-ead.xml&chunk.id=>



**Gift of a Picasso vase,** date 1957

Gift of Dr. Walter L. Bloom, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, July 16, 1968.

Courtesy of Georgia Tech Archives:

<http://history.library.gatech.edu/items/show/4390>

# Crosland and Information Science

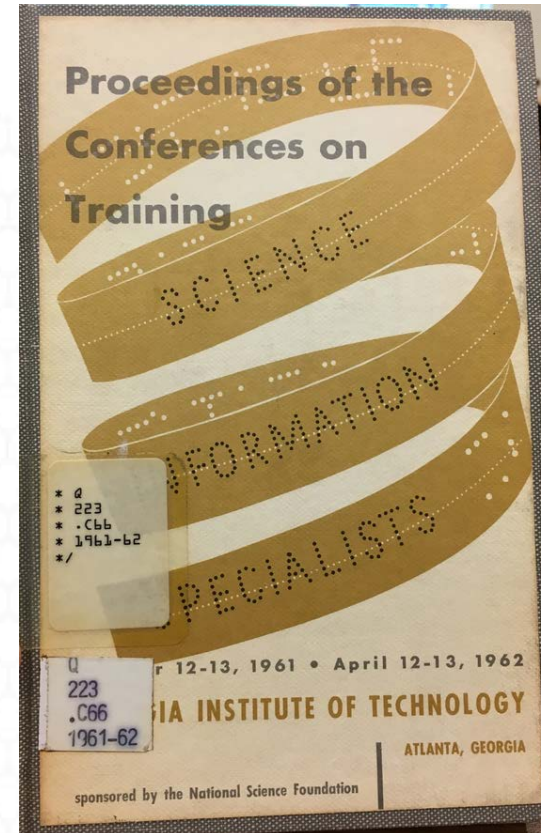


- Through Crosland's efforts, the library's received a NSF grant to support "**Programs for Training Personnel for Scientific and Technical Libraries**"
- The grant resulted in **two conferences** on the Georgia Tech campus, attended in **1961 and 1962** by engineers, scientists, and librarians from all over the United States and parts of Europe
- Dorothy Crosland had a leading role in **advancing the field of information science** and helping to **educate information science personnel**

Sources:

Georgia Tech Annual Reports 1961-1963

Vladimir Slamecka: <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/people/home/vs/cv.html>



Source: Proceedings of the Conferences on Training Science Information Specialists, October 12-13, 1961 [and] April 12-13, 1962, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. Available GT Archives - Q223 .C66 1961-62

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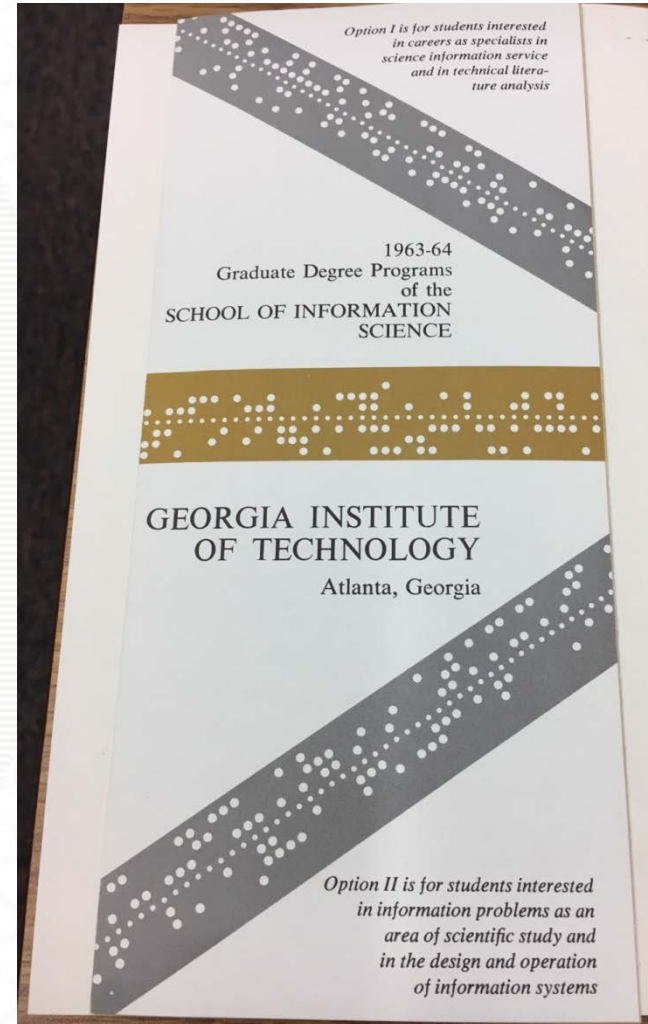
# Crosland and Information Science



- In the spring of 1964, Crosland recruited **Dr. Vladimir Slamecka** to **head** the new Information Science program. (His education was in physical sciences and logic and earned a **Ph.D. in library science** in 1962 from Columbia University in New York)
- Crosland helped to establish the **first United States master's** program in information science in **1963**
- This Georgia Tech **School of Information Science** later became School of Information and Computer Science in 1970 and then the **College of Computing** in 1990

Source: History of GT Computing

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/about/history>



Source: Box 17, Dorothy M. Crosland Papers (MS001), Archives, Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology



# Crosland: What's important

- Liking People
- Courage
- Conviction

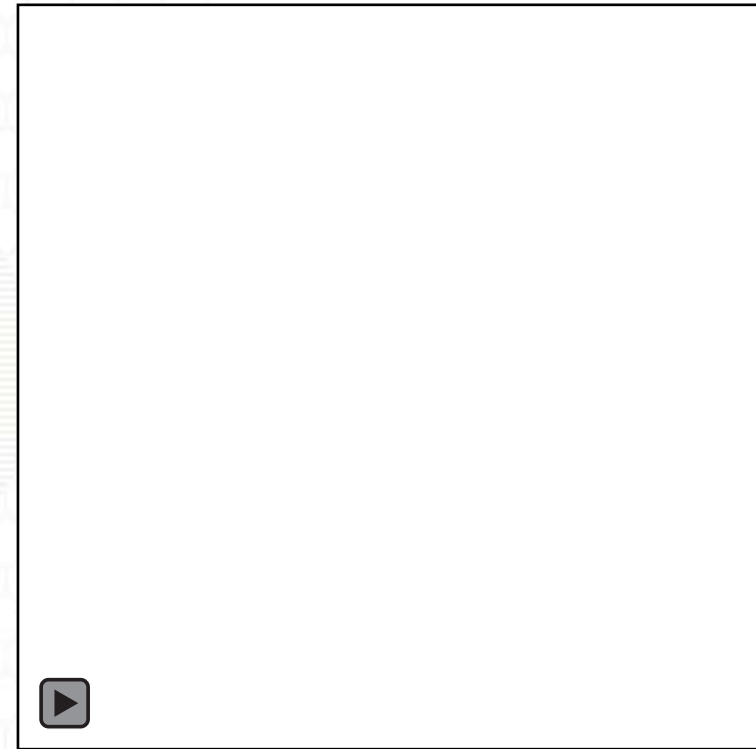
Source: Crosland, D. M. (1966) Proposals and Programs - The Informal Aspects. In W. Ladley (Ed.). Federal legislation for libraries: papers presented at an institute conducted by the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, November 6-9, 1966. Urbana, Illinois: Graduate School of Library Science (pp. 66-75). Retrieved March 17, 2017, from <http://hdl.handle.net/2142/1535>

# Video Clip about Dorothy Crosland



Georgia Tech Alumni Living  
History Program

***Madame Librarian:  
The Dorothy Crosland  
Story***  
(12 min.)



Clip of 1:08 min. Filmed September 2001  
[https://mediaspace.gatech.edu/id/1\\_lisl8d4a?width=608&h  
eight=402&playerId=32364501](https://mediaspace.gatech.edu/id/1_lisl8d4a?width=608&height=402&playerId=32364501)

# Crosland's Other Accomplishments and honors



- Played a major role in **admitting women** to Georgia Tech (1940s and 1950s). Women students were eventually admitted in 1952
- **Mentored** some of these early female students
- Contributed to **Librarianship** – scholarly articles and professional society officer
- Crosland was named **Atlanta's Woman of the Year in Education** (1945)
- Named an **honorary alumna** by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association (1962)
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue of *Blue Print* yearbook was dedicated to Crosland



Source:

*Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine*, Vol. 79, No. 2, 2002, pp. 41-45, <https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/51201>  
Fiftieth Anniversary Issue 1908-1957, The Georgia Tech Blue Print, <http://hdl.handle.net/1853/29928>

Dorothy M. Crosland Papers (MS001), Archives, Georgia Tech Library, Georgia Institute of Technology., <http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/finding-aids/view?docId=ead/MS001-ead/MS001-ead.xml;query=crosland;brand=default>



# Conclusions



- Crosland stated “I leave behind two magnificent buildings, one of the **finest collections** in scientific and technical literature to be found in any library and a **staff unequaled** anywhere.” (1970-1971 annual report)

- Crosland pushed forward agendas for the library, Georgia Tech, the broader research and education community, and the library profession
- Crosland had a passion for the Georgia Tech Library. She turned her innovative ideas into reality
- Crosland was greatly respected and appreciated locally and nationally

Source: “One of the Boys” *Georgia Tech Alumnus*, July-August 1971, p. 14  
[https://issuu.com/gtalumni/docs/1971\\_49\\_6](https://issuu.com/gtalumni/docs/1971_49_6)

# Acknowledgements



- Georgia Tech Library
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  - Katie Gentiello, Archives Projects Coordinator
  - Kirk Henderson, Archives Records Manager
  - Mandi Johnson, Visual Materials Archivist
  - Amanda G. Pellerin, Access Archivist
  - Information Delivery – Glenna Barney, Shirley Dixon, Runae Knight
  - Sereym Baek, Georgia Tech Library student assistant, undergraduate student in the Georgia Tech College of Computing
- Marilyn Somers, Director Georgia Tech Living History Program
- David Rawles Cayll – BCE 1976 – copying DVD to digital format

# References



The majority of the references are from Dorothy M. Crosland Papers, Georgia Tech Archives

For a complete list of references, see  
“History of the Georgia Tech Library, with Emphasis on the Crosland Era”

Lisha Li, Isabel M. Altamirano, and Bette M. Finn  
*2017 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition*  
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Paper ID #18060

The full paper is published with the proceedings at  
<https://www.asee.org/public/conferences/78/papers/18060/download>





## Questions?

Source: Fiftieth Anniversary Issue 1908-1957,  
The Georgia Tech Blue Print ,  
<http://hdl.handle.net/1853/29928>

**Thank you!**